

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An inflator comprising a gas generating agent, a reducing material, an ignition means, and a coolant/filter, wherein said reducing material is placed in the ~~proximity of a gas outlet from an ignition means accommodation chamber inside a gas generating agent combustion chamber~~ inflator.
2. (Previously Presented) The inflator according to claim 1, which further comprises means for preventing the change or variance of an NOx reducing effect.
3. (Previously Presented) The inflator according to claim 2, wherein said prevention means is a partition plate.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) An air bag system comprising said inflator of claim 1, an impact sensor, control means for inputting a detected signal and outputting an operation signal to said ignition means of a gas generator, and an air bag.
6. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing NOx generated by the combustion of a gas generating agent inside an inflator for an air bag, by reducing

NO<sub>x</sub> by a reducing material and decreasing its amount, wherein said inflator comprises an ignition means, a gas generating agent and a coolant/filter, and said reducing material is placed inside said inflator, and said reducing material is a guanidine derivative[[],] ~~wherein said reducing material is placed in the proximity of a gas outlet from an ignition means accommodation chamber inside a gas generating agent combustion chamber.~~

7. (Previously Presented) The inflator according to claim 1, wherein the reducing material comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of amide compounds, guanidine derivatives, tetrazole derivatives, hydrazine derivatives, triazine derivatives, hydroxylamine salts, sodium salts, ammonium salts, amine complexes, cyanates and dicyanamide salts.
8. (Previously Presented) The inflator according to claim 1, wherein the reducing material is used in combination with a reducing catalyst.
9. (Previously Presented) The inflator according to claim 8, wherein the reducing catalyst is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of copper oxide, iron oxide, chromium oxide, nickel oxide, cobalt oxide, and copper chromite.

10. (Previously Presented) The inflator according to claim 8, wherein the reducing catalyst is used at 0.01 to 200 parts by weight on the basis of 100 parts by weight of the reducing material.
11. (Previously Presented) The inflator according to claim 1, wherein the reducing material is used at 0.1 to 20 parts by weight based upon 100 parts by weight of the gas generating agent.
12. (Previously Presented) The inflator according to claim 3, wherein the partition plate comprises metal or plastic.
13. (Previously Presented) The inflator according to claim 3, wherein the partition plate comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silicon, iron and stainless steel.
14. (Previously Presented) The inflator according to claim 3, wherein the partition plate comprises aluminum having a thickness of from about 30 to about 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .
15. (Previously Presented) The inflator according to claim 3, wherein the partition plate comprises silicon having a thickness from about 1 to about 3 mm.